of Commerce has drawn up a comprehensive plan for promotion of farm exports that will substantially increase our present low share of world trade.

(iv) The Government will soon unveil a National Rural Cooperative Policy and enact the long-pending Multi-State Cooperative Act.

(v) In line with the recommendations of the National Task Force on Information Technology, the Government has decided to promote Information Technology in agriculture and agro-business in a big way. The government will constitute a high-level Task force on Food and Agro-Industries management Policy, headed by Agriculture Minister Shri Som Pal, it will comprise representatives from the States, agriculture universities and R&D centres, prominent farmers and businessmen in the sector. The Task Force will submit an action plan for examination and adoption by the Government within the next three months.

(vi) in response to the demands of the State Governments, Prime Minister advised the Government of Maharashtra should prepare a scheme for helping the farmers affected by natural calamities so that Central Government can examine the scheme and consider providing necessary help to the State Government.

कार्यक्रमों का प्रसारण

582. **प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव** :
श्री रमाशंकर कौशिक :

(क) क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या दूरदर्शन ने स्वतंत्रता आन्दोलन एवं पिछले पचास वर्षो के दौरान हुई प्रगति पर कार्यक्रम दिखाने हेतु विभिन्न निर्माताओं के साथ कोई अनुबंध किया था:

(ख) यदि हां, तो सम्बन्धित निर्माताओं के नाम तथा उनसे सम्बन्धित कार्यक्रमों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उक्त कार्यक्रमों पर दूरदर्शन द्वारा कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई तथा इस पर जनता एवं सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया हुई तथा इन कार्यक्रमों की कितनी सफलता मिली?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार नकवी) : (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Legislation on Broadcasting Bill

583. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cable Networks Association has represented for early legislation on the Broadcasting Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the sovereignty and integrity by early enactment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association requested the Government to enact a broadcasting law or amend the existing Cable law so as to protect the interests of the individual cable operators and prevent the emergence of powerful monopolies in this sector.

(c) This Ministry had convened a meeting on 3.11.98 with representatives of various cable operator associations to discuss various aspects of cable and broadcast law. Requisite steps have been initiated for finalising the provisions of the new Broadcasting Bill.

New AIR Station at Salem

584. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made for establishing a new station of All India Radio at Salem in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to resource constraints it has not been possible to include a AIR Station project in Salem in the ninth five year plan.

Terms and Conditions for Satellite Broadcasters.

585. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions for satellite broadcasters to operate in the country and whether Govt. have reviewed in recent past such conditions, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the cable Networks Association has recently suggested Prime Minister to amend the Cable Networks (Regulations) Act 1995 to prevent the satellite broadcasting and cable networking from falling in forejgn hands; and

(c) if so, the stcps/action taken on such suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI):' (a) As per the policy the satellite broadcasters were not allowed to operate in the country earlier but in the recent past Govt, have decided to permit Indian managed satellite broadcasters to uplink from India through VSNL only. The main parameters and criteria laid down to uplink from India are as follows:

(1) The applicant should be an Indian satellite channel with resident Indian equity holding of not less than 80% and effective managed control being with resident Indians.

(2) The applicant satellite channel should be presently uplinking from another country, obtaining foreign exchange release for this purpose.

(3) The channels would be required to abide by the Programme and advertising Codes, as are presently applicable to Doordarshan.

(4) The uplinking facility would be' available only by through VSNL.

(5) The facility would be available only on ITU co-ordinated satellites—which would mean successful* completion of national and internationl co-ordination as appropriate, within the co-ordinated technical parameters, noting that this permission for uplinking cannot be construed to imply international agreement by the Indian administration of the satellite network nor relaxation of the technical parameters as agreed in the international agreements.

(6) Applicants have to be in possession of a transponder on such satellite as enumerated in point 5 above.

(7) The approval would be subject to the siting clearance from Standing Advisory Committee for Frequency Assignment (SACFA) and clearance from the Deptt, of Space as per their SATCOM Policy.

(8) The transmission would be in C Band (not above 4800 MHz) only and for Television signals only.

(9) The uplinking permission would be granted for a period of one year in the first instance.

(10) The applications would be vetted for security clearance by the Home Ministry before final approval is granted.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Govt, propose to introduce a new Broadcasting Bill in Parliament for facilitating and regulating private broadcasting from within the